

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



[Struggle-La-Lucha.org](http://Struggle-La-Lucha.org)

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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

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# France burns as millions protest to defend pensions

By Gary Wilson

March 23 was a national day of action, a general strike, organized by the labor unions in France.

According to union estimates, around 3.5 million people hit the streets in more than 250 locations across France that day, Peoples Dispatch reports.

Workers have continued work stoppages in critical areas, including energy, transportation, railways, seaports, airports, industries, schools, colleges and universities, municipal services including waste management, and tightened blockades of major roads, bridges, and roundabouts in major cities.

The day before, on March 22, President Emmanuel Macron went on national TV to reiterate his decision to force pension cuts through the National Assembly without a vote, using Article 49.3, a part of the French constitution that enables the government to pass a law without a vote by parliament.

Macron defied the opposition of nearly 80% of the population, who all opposed the pension cuts.

*Continued on page 8*



Workers across France continue militant protests against attacks on pensions.

**WALL STREET:**  
Work till you drop

Activist interviewed  
on California snowstorm

San Diego March for Black Womxn



March 18 protest in Washington, D.C.

**NO U.S. WAR ON RUSSIA & CHINA**

- Protesters in D.C. denounce NATO
- Los Angeles protests US. proxy war media censorship

Lab leak lie dies –  
U.S. ramps up attack on China

**MOBILIZING TO FREE MUMIA**

- San Diego
- Int'l unions

**No justice, no peace!**

**FIGHT TO FREE MUMIA**

**TRANS PEOPLE  
WON'T BE ERASED**

**BIGOTS SAY GET BACK  
WE SAY FIGHT BACK!**

**Women in Struggle /  
Mujeres en Lucha**



**Proposal to the movement from Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha:**

**National March to Protect Trans Youth  
FLORIDA ► AUTUMN 2023**  
**& Speakout for Trans Rights**  
**Build a People's Tribunal to put anti-trans bigots on trial**

Transgender, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people are under siege. So far this year, more than 400 anti-trans bills have been introduced at the state and national levels. Fourteen states have banned or severely restricted life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth. Attacks, both legislative and violent, are growing by the day, while national elected officials who claim to support the LGBTQ+ community remain silent and do nothing.

We can't wait for the next election in hopes that things might improve. Measures are being enacted NOW that will do irreparable harm to trans youth and all trans people. The thousands of youth around the country walking out of schools and rallying at state capitols have shown us the way. Now we need to take the movement national.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wants to be president, is one of the most vicious abusers of trans youth and the rights of all people. Behind politicians like DeSantis are rich bosses who profit from divide-and-rule tactics.

Join us to build a broad national coalition in partnership with organizations and communities on the ground in Florida and with allies in the Black Lives and immigrant rights struggles, the women's movement, educators, labor, the unemployed, and antiwar movements.

GET READY for the first planning meeting on Zoom in April.

SPREAD THE WORD.

Think about what you can do!

ADD YOUR NAME & ORGANIZATION to the list of initiators and endorsers.

REACH OUT to info@womeninstruggle.org for updates and to get involved.

**Bigots say get back – we say fight back!**

[WomenInStruggle.org](http://WomenInStruggle.org)

[Facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle](http://Facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle)

# Activist speaks on worst California snowstorm in four decades

By Scott Scheffer

Pawel Chmielewski is a retired engineer and a long-time progressive activist who lives in the San Bernardino mountains of California. He spoke with Struggle-La Lucha about the massive snowstorms that slammed the mountain range. The freak weather was caused by global warming and killed 13 people, destroyed 41 homes and damaged 550 others.

**Struggle-La Lucha:** When we first reached you by cellphone, it was breaking up so badly that the only thing I was able to get from the conversation was that you definitely couldn't get out and that electricity was out. What was going on at that point?

**Pawel Chmielewski:** Yes, I had no internet and so I was relying on my cell phone's network. But it was just cutting in and out so badly that it was almost useless. I also had no electricity. It was finally restored, but then there were blackouts up to a couple days ago.

I have a generator that runs on natural gas and I had it hooked up so that it would come on if the electricity failed like the generators in commercial buildings do. But it was covered with about three feet of snow and couldn't get enough air, so it didn't work until I was finally able to get out of my house and dig it out.

**SLL:** How bad was the snow? How deep was it?

**PC:** I've never seen anything like it. My car was buried – you couldn't see it. The snow was five feet deep in the first storm, but the drifts were sometimes 10 feet deep. A lot of people's roofs caved in from the weight.

**SLL:** Another snowfall happened in the last few days. How is it now?



**PC:** With the first storm, no one could get out throughout the area. This latest snowfall is bad in places, but many can drive. I'm snowed in – like a lot of people – because the snowplows bury your driveway. It's still pretty hard to get food but it's not as perilous now.

**SLL:** Did people come around offering to get you out of there?

**PC:** Yes, and most people in my area did evacuate. Having a generator and food, I decided to stay. I was one of the few that did. There were some shelters in churches and other places. But it was hard for them to get to people. It's not like they could just go evacuate everyone and it's done – it took days just to get to some people. They were using helicopters to try to assess everything but then still had to get to them somehow, which could take a long time.

**SLL:** How long was it before you were able to go out and get food and other supplies?

**PC:** It was about 10 days total. For me personally it was not a problem. But a lot of people really did suffer

without food. Because of health issues I'm a vegan and my diet is mostly from dry food that I normally keep on hand. I had enough to last. And I had enough of my medications too. But the food situation for others that couldn't evacuate right away was pretty bad.

Even for those who could drive, getting any place for food was far for most people. For instance, the store that's closest to me is about five miles away and the weight of the snow collapsed its roof. Stores are scarce throughout the area, so it was a big problem for a lot of people. I don't know if that contributed to the number of people who died. There were 13 deaths in the San Bernardino area.

**SLL:** From what I gather, the deaths were mostly attributed to lack of access for people who needed medical attention, maybe with lack of food being a cause in some cases, or vehicle accidents as people tried to drive out, and to heart attacks from trying to shovel snow.

**PC:** Did people come to check on you?

**PC:** Yes. I have to say, I thought the emergency response people

tried their best. Not only in getting people evacuated, but also knocking on doors for welfare checks and helping in other ways. There were 800 people involved in trying to deal with the situation, including many prisoners who are usually firefighters when there are wildfires. I hope they get rewarded somehow for that. They helped a lot with the work of digging people out of the snow and in other ways.

Even right now with this second snow, there was all the rain between the two snowstorms, so because of freezing and thawing, it's hard to walk much less drive. I think it's still hard for them to safely say that everyone is okay.

**SLL:** Thank you for taking the time to talk with us. We're so glad that you're safe. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**PC:** Yes. Thank you for all your hard work. I think every day, people hate rich capitalists and greedy oil executives more and more. They deserve our hatred. I hope we can have huge protests all over the place and finally force some real action. They'll never do it without that. □

## Int'l Transport Workers Union calls for Mumia's release

By Lallan Schoenstein

International Transport Workers Union General Secretary Stephen Cotton wrote a letter of support for "the release Mumia Abu-Jamal" to Judge Lucretia Clemons of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County on March 27 in London.

Cotton's letter read: "I am writing in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal's petition for a new trial based on the discovery of previously undisclosed material relating to his trial in 1982. Alongside our affiliates National Mine Workers Union of South Africa (NUMSA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), the ITWU wishes to add its voice to the call for Abu-Jamal's case to receive the fair hearing and true justice that has so far eluded him."

"The evidence found in 2018 indicates, at the very least, misconduct by the prosecution, and this discovery is on top of a damning assess-

ment of the original trial by Amnesty International in 2000, whose report determined that 'numerous aspects of this case clearly failed to meet minimum international standards safeguarding the fairness of legal proceedings. Amnesty International, therefore, believes that the interests of justice would best be served by the granting of a new trial to Mumia Abu-Jamal.'

"It is our collective and strongly held belief that the 2018 discovery shows the prosecution withheld significant material evidence and suggests it allowed racial bias to influence the jury selection. It is, therefore, crucial for the integrity of the Philadelphia County Court System that Mumia Abu-Jamal be granted a new trial, and we trust in your Honour's own integrity and sense of justice that this historic wrong will be rectified."

Widespread vigilance on Mumia's case is being observed around the



International Longshore and Warehouse Union rallies in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Feb. 16.

globe, while Judge Clemons's decision stalls in indecision. Mumia was on death row until international outrage brought about a change in the sentence.

U.S. political prisoner Abu-Jamal has suffered 42 years of racist im-

prisonment. In all that time, the courageous journalist known as "the voice of the voiceless" has never been silent. New letters of support from around the world flood the Philadelphia court – voices calling for Mumia's freedom. □

# Mobilizing to free Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Gloria Verdieu

The San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal hosted a meeting on March 11 at the Malcolm X Library to follow up on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

We are answering the call to show full support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, including educating people about Mumia. Many do not know what is happening with Mumia or practically any cases of political prisoners.

We understand that the United States continues to claim there are no political prisoners, and their job is to push this lie. However, the truth is U.S. jails and prisons are full of political prisoners because private prisons are money-making industries, and to make money, they must keep prisons full.

Look at the number of exonerations in the past 30 years and the overflow of people waiting to have their cases heard by the Innocence Project. The National Registry of Exonerations reported 3,290 known exonerations since 1989, prisoners who spent collectively 29,100 years locked up for crimes they did not commit.

The U.S. government has paid over \$2.9 billion in compensation, but over half of those exonerated received nothing. Black people make up 50% of those exonerated and have the highest number of years lost per exoneration. Mumia will be one of those exonerated, and he deserves to be compensated for being unjustly imprisoned for over 40 years.

Mumia needs our help more than ever. We need to show the world that millions in the United States are fighting for justice for Mumia. We understand that the outcome of this campaign to free Mumia will reflect on what happens to many of our loved ones who find themselves detained or imprisoned in this corrupt criminal justice system. We must understand that an injustice to one



San Diego, March 11.

SLL PHOTO

of us is an injustice to all.

## 'Bearing Witness in the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal'

While watching the webinar "Bearing Witness in the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal," those in the room were shaken by the blatant miscarriage of the law that the speakers laid out in words we all understood. When Johanna Fernandez came to the mic with Mumia's voice on her cell phone, everyone was in awe listening to Mumia's voice, LIVE. Mumia thanked everyone who came, and he spoke with a voice vibrant and full of life.

The webinar ended with recently retired Arkansas state Judge Rev. Wendell Griffin's answer to a simple question, "Can the judge just outright release Mumia?" His response was, "Yes! The judge has the power to declare that his conviction and sentence must be overturned." View the full webinar on YouTube.

After the video, San Diego Black Panther Party members joined us as we gathered to take a picture in front of the beautiful FREE MUMIA portrait painted by local activist Mario Torero. Everyone was reminded that it was still time to write a letter to Judge Lucretia Clemons encourag-

ing her to do the right thing – grant Mumia a new trial or release him NOW.

A student from San Diego State University, Roberto Zepeda, who had recently read Mumia's book "All Things Censored," said he was going to write a letter. We exchanged cell phone numbers, and later that evening, I received a text message with his letter. I emailed his letter to Love Not Phear and received an email response: "Roberto's letter will be in a package of letters going overnight to Judge Clemons on Monday, March 13, 2023."

**Roberto Zepeda's letter:** 3/11/23

Dear Judge Clemons,

I have followed the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal for some time now and it didn't take me long to understand his fight.

From a single book I have read of his and an experience of being on the other side. Mumia has been able to articulate a lived reality for many of those that have been impacted by the carceral system.

It took me a while to get acquainted with his case and I can see how he got railroaded. I have lost all faith in the criminal legal system as it exists in the United States, and it is

no wonder that the entire world is keeping a close eye on the case because the country that champions itself as being democratic has truly lost its way.

I have been adamant to follow too many cases in which D.A.s all across the nation disregard the law and violate the same laws they swore to uphold. It is not surprising then that this country incarcerates more people than any other place in the world. At best, justice in the U.S. is performative. It exists in name only.

But it is never too late to do what is right. Precisely because I still believe that Mumia Abu-Jamal can be released. I implore you by way of this letter to grant Mumia Abu-Jamal his release and take a bold stance on what is right.

Presently, I am a university student, advocate, activist, and organizer. I cannot remain silent in the face of injustice and because of so much injustice all around I do not think it's in me to remain silent any longer.

Stand on the right side of history, uphold the law, and do not waver. Because the law has completely been disregarded when it comes to Mumia Abu-Jamal's case, you can restore some semblance of respect to the Constitution.

The entire world is watching, and our voices will not be silenced. We support you, Judge Clemons, only because we have faith that you will do what is right.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a human being that deserves to be treated fairly. Even though for four decades he has been denied justice, we know that it is never too late to do justice. You have the opportunity to do that. Seek Justice Judge Clemons, for humanity's sake.

**Release Mumia Abu-Jamal!!!!!!**

Sincerely,

**Roberto Zepeda**, San Diego State University (SDSU) Student

We want Justice! Release Mumia, now! Bring him home! ☮

# Court denies Mumia a fair trial The fight for his freedom continues

By Gloria Verdieu

On March 31, news of Judge Lucretia Clemons' decision to deny Mumia Abu-Jamal his right to a fair trial spread instantly around the world, even though in the U.S., the major media remained silent. Those who were expecting this outcome and those who had remained hopeful — all suffered grim disappointment.

The media headlines focused solely on the indictment of Donald Trump. Do the media coverage and headlines mean that democracy prevails because of the indictment of an actual criminal whose major crime, they say, is the loathsome-ness in which the former president likes to wallow?

In real-time, did the Pennsylvania judge, with corrupt brutality underscoring her decision, say it was too late for justice and democracy to

prevail in Mumia's case? Did the court decision from the USA, a country with a history of racist bondage, resonate worldwide? Yes!

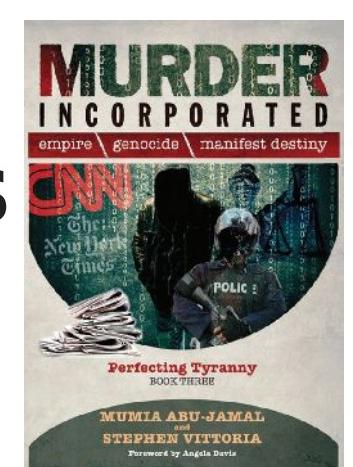
Despite the timing of the court decision in Mumia's case, this was suspiciously released when the media was flooded with news of Trump's indictment, interviews with his supporters, and many florid photos. Moreover, it was released on a Friday, just before the court closed for the weekend.

Did those who petitioned the judge, including major international unions and civil rights organizations, call for anything more than a new trial? Their letters were based on newly disclosed evidence that clearly delineated the machinations behind the police frameup and his racist mistrial. Wasn't it within the most conservative bounds of democracy to allow the court to hear

the long-buried evidence of Mumia's innocence for the first time?

Prisoner Mumia, with unyielding integrity and courage, never ceases to demand the freedom of all political prisoners. His writings and books analyzing racist conditions of mass incarceration present undeniable truth. He speaks for a myriad of political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin.

If Mumia Abu-Jamal was not innocent — if he had not been wrongfully imprisoned for 41 years, spending the first 28.5 years on Pennsylvania's death row until his death sentence was confirmed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011 — if this innocent man was not now serving a sentence of life in prison without parole, would there be any reason for Judge Clemons to attempt to crush his chance for a new trial?



Order Mumia's book from Prison Radio at <http://murder-incorporated.org/>

**Help build and plan protests for Mumia's freedom on Sunday, April 23.**

Monday, April 24, is his birthday. The struggle continues. We will fight to free Mumia.

Write to Mumia Abu-Jamal at:  
Smart Communications/PADOC  
Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335  
SCI Mahanoy  
c/o PO Box 33028  
St Petersburg, FL 33733 ☮

# WORK TILL YOU DROP: Wall Street wants to steal your retirement

By Stephen Millies

Since Social Security was established on August 14, 1935, capitalist opponents have said it would go broke. Yet, as limited as it is, Social Security has been the greatest factor in reducing extreme poverty in the United States.

Gone were the days of the poor house where seniors, unable to work, would be sent to eke out a miserable existence. Before Social Security, the livelihood of older folk was viewed as an individual burden of their children, if they had any.

The socialist activist and writer Elizabeth Ross described how liberating Social Security and union pensions were for the working class in "Welfare: Why Workers Need It, How Billionaires Get It." Social Security benefited not only seniors but also family members who had blamed themselves for their parents' poverty. The living conditions of the elderly were now, properly so, considered a responsibility of the entire society.

That's why big capitalists despise Social Security. The late U.S. senator and 1964 presidential candidate Barry Goldwater claimed that the program was turning seniors "into a dependent animal creature."

Wall Street lusts after the \$3 trillion in Social Security trust funds. Banksters want Social Security privatized so they can rip it off.

President George Bush tried to pull off this heist in 2005, but it couldn't get off the runway. That was the same year Bush let Black and poor people drown and starve in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

His first treasury secretary, Paul O'Neill, had earlier told the Financial Times in 2001 that "able-bodied" people should arrange their own retirement. That was easy for O'Neill, the millionaire former CEO of Alcoa, to say.

The late Bernie Madoff stole \$64 billion from his clients' savings. Abolish Social Security, and an army of Madoffs will rob from millions.

Florida Senator Rick Scott wants Congress to be able to scuttle Social Security, Medicare, and other social programs every five years. They could only be saved by a majority vote in both houses of Congress to renew them.

## Stealing wages and golden years

All pensions, including Social Security and Railroad Retirement, are deferred wages. They're part of the surplus value produced by the entire working class, both employed and unemployed.

Commonly called profits or interest, surplus value is the difference between what the multinational working class produces and what it gets paid in wages and benefits. Capitalists are always trying to steal more and more from us.

Look how they've chiseled the federal minimum wage. Largely because of the efforts of Harlem Congressperson Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., the minimum wage was raised to \$1.60 per hour on Feb. 1, 1968.

Fifty-five years later, because of



Living conditions of the elderly are considered a responsibility of the entire society.

inflation, that's worth \$14.07 in February 2023. But the minimum wage has been frozen at \$7.25 per hour since July 24, 2009.

So the poorest workers have seen their wages cut in half. That's what the wealthy and powerful are seeking to do with our retirement.

They want us to work until we die. After President Reagan broke the PATCO air traffic controllers' strike in 1981, his administration set up a commission to "reform" Social Security.

The only "reform" was hiking the standard retirement age to 67. To the disgrace of the labor movement, then AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland signed off on this crime.

Sixty-seven isn't good enough for capitalists. So in 2011, the Economist magazine — a mouthpiece of the U.S.-British financial aristocracy — demanded the retirement age be raised to 70.

The late American International Group CEO Robert Benmosche wanted the retirement age jacked up to 80. That was the insurance giant AIG's thank you after it got \$182 billion in bail-out money.

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley wants to raise the retirement age for those who are now in their 20s.

Forcing seniors to retire later means taking jobs from young people. That's robbing from both the elderly and their grandchildren.

It's already projected that by 2026 more than one-tenth of people over 75 will still be working. In the meantime, capitalists are trying to bring back child labor.

Karl Marx, who discovered surplus value, wrote that it has two aspects: relative surplus value and absolute surplus value. Speeding up an assembly line or forcing a janitor to clean more bathrooms are examples of increasing relative surplus value.

Forcing an employee to work longer hours for the same pay is an example of capitalists stealing more absolute surplus value. So is forcing people to work longer before they can retire.

## Vive la France!

One of the "glories" of the Protestant Reformation in Europe was

eliminating all the holidays. At the Sparrows Point steel mill outside Baltimore — now the site of an Amazon warehouse — the only holidays in 1900 were the Fourth of July and Christmas.

Combined with the 12-hour work days in the mill, that's absolute surplus value to the max. Accumulating profits depended on working people to the bone.

France is now the biggest battlefield in the struggle to stop the stealing of our retirement years. French President Emmanuel Macron thinks he has pushed through an increase in the retirement age.

Using a completely anti-democratic feature in France's 1958 constitution, the bill was enacted without even a vote in the country's National Assembly. According to public opinion polls, at least two-thirds of people in France oppose the cutback measure.

People are revolting against Macron in dozens of French cities. The French working class is fighting for all of us. Cops are using their batons, tear gas and water cannons against protesters.

This brutality is typical for French capitalists. In 1871, their army crushed the Paris Commune — the first working-class government in history — slaughtering tens of thousands of people.

On Oct. 17, 1961, French police murdered hundreds of Algerians in Paris who were demonstrating for independence. Cops threw the bodies into the Seine River.

Behind Macron is world capitalism. The Washington Post, owned by Amazon tycoon Jeff Bezos, declared "Mr. Macron is right."

How many Amazon workers, whose labor is responsible for Bezos' \$123 billion fortune, will even be able to retire?

## Capitalism can't tolerate longer lives

The Industrial Revolution — responsible for machine production, space flights, and the internet — is around 250 years old. Its most outstanding achievements are greater life expectancy and big drops in both infant and maternal mortality.

Even the science fiction writer Jules Verne didn't foresee heart transplants or CAT scans. Neither

did Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founders of modern communism, although they would have welcomed them.

These dramatic medical triumphs make discrimination in health care all the more heartbreaking.

For example, Black infants in Wisconsin are nearly three times as likely to die as white babies.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared, "Of all forms of discrimination and inequalities, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman."

The latest capitalist contradiction is longer life expectancy. The profit system can't tolerate longer lives. That's why capitalists are forcing up the retirement age.

General Electric had to set aside \$14.5 billion to cover losses in its long-term care insurance business because people were living too damn long.

Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel — whose brother, former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, covered up the police murder of Black teenager Laquan McDonald — frequently pops up on TV. The reason is that he claims he will refuse medical treatment after he reaches 75.

That's your choice doctor, but please don't force it on the rest of us. That's not meant to disrespect people who choose to forego chemotherapy or some other treatment.

That Washington Post editorial supporting Macron finds it troublesome that the number of folks older than 65 or older is expected to double by 2050.

So what's wrong with that? We think that's great!

Socialist Cuba is proud of its 2,000 seniors who are over 100 years old. Life expectancy in the socialist People's Republic of China has more than doubled since 1949.

In the socialist Soviet Union, retirement ages were 60 for men and 55 for women.

It's inevitable that there will be a push to cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in the congressional negotiations over the debt limit. Just as inevitable is the current war drive against China and the Russian Federation.

The labor and people's movements need to demand that the retirement age be lowered. It's shameful that millions of people above 65 and below can't afford prescribed medications.

We must demand a minimum Social Security benefit of at least \$3,000 monthly. We've earned it. The billionaires can pay for it. □

# March for Black Womxn 2023 was live!

By Gloria Verdieu

San Diego — Sunday morning, March 12, started a little overcast, but that didn't keep people from coming out for the 10 a.m. kick-off rally for the March for Black Womxn (M4BW) 2023.

The rally was held on University Avenue outside Fatuma's, an African restaurant in City Heights, a culturally rich neighborhood in San Diego.

Rally co-chair Nyisha Geedoubleu welcomed everyone present in person and those watching live on Facebook before introducing the march security team leader, who welcomed representatives from the Kumeyaay Nation to deliver a message of support and solidarity.

It was important to organizers to acknowledge, recognize, and show respect to the Indigenous people who have lived on this "land we are standing on" since the beginning of time.

This was the fourth annual M4BW in San Diego. The organizers — Nyisha and Christina Griffin — spoke about the challenges encountered in making the final decision to have the women's march in the midst of the ongoing pandemic that continues to plague our communities. It's been three years since the last M4BW march, and we mourn those who are not physically with us and are grateful for everyone who came out to join us in person and those joining virtually.

Nyisha reminded us that the march was originally held on March 10, Harriet Tubman day. The 2018 and 2019 marches were held on March 10, Saturday, and Sunday, respectively. This year March 10 was on a Friday, which was not a good day to have a march, but then again, this march, as with previous marches, continues to honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

The rally speakers addressed a multitude of issues related to racism, women and incarceration, medical neglect, police brutality, and domestic violence, with an emphasis on Trans Womxn and racist migrant detention centers that house Womxn and separate children from their families.

The family of Muma Kuri, a So-



March for Black Womxn 2023 in San Diego, March 12.

SLL PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

mali woman found dead in her City Heights apartment on March 7, 2019, reported that justice was served. After three years of fighting, the killer, her husband, was convicted of first-degree murder in November of 2022 and sentenced to 26 years to life in prison.

On the issue of migrant detention, Christina spoke of CCA San Diego Detention Facility. This privately owned corporation works under contract with ICE to house immigrant detainees in downtown San Diego. ICE officers decide the bond amounts for the release of detainees who are fighting their cases in immigration court. Bails for Black migrants are excessively higher than for non-Black migrants. The non-profits that raise money will bail out migrants with lower bonds, which means that many Black migrants could be detained indefinitely and then deported. The conditions in these detention centers are unbearably inhumane.

#### Why we march without a permit

Christina explained why we are marching in the streets without a permit or police escorts: "Our first

M4BW was in March of 2018. The city of San Diego approached the 2018 San Diego Women's March organizers and gave them a permit and protection for free. When Nyisha went downtown to apply for a permit for our M4BW, they told her it would be \$5,000. The \$5,000 was to pay for police who would protect us." The San Diego Women's march was predominately white, so essentially white women were given a permit and protection by the police. Black Womxn were not given permission and must pay for police protection.

The M4BW is an anti-police march. We do not need or want police protection, nor do we need permission to march in our streets. The San Diego Black Panther Party and the Brown Berets provided security and safety, monitored and directed traffic during the 1.5-mile march down University Avenue, a major street in City Heights. There were also medics available to assist during the rally and march. It was a vibrant, high-energy march.

After the rally, the March for Black Womxn, organized by and led by Black Womxn, began. Christina explained the significance of the M4BW

chant: "Say Her Name." Black Womxn, especially Black Trans Womxn murdered by state sanction, intimate partner, and inter-communal violence, were ignored in spaces where people lifted up those killed by state-sanctioned violence. The call and response chant began with saying the name of a Black Womxn killed by police, and marchers responded with "SAY HER NAME."

Close to a hundred people were marching down University Avenue, chanting "Say Her Name" as the names of Black Womxn killed by state-sanctioned murder were shouted, stopping briefly as intersections were cleared by security for safe passage. The names of Black women included Cashay Henderson, and Jasmine Mack, both transgender women in Milwaukee and Washington, respectively.

Everyone made it to City Heights park to meet up with other M4BW organizers already preparing for an afternoon of entertainment and a closing rally.

The entire march and rally was live-streamed on Facebook – "March For Black Womxn SD. Protect, Respect, & Listen to Black Womxn!"

## D19: LIBRE salutes Honduran President Xiomara Castro

By D19: LIBRE

Congratulations and thank you, compañera President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya!

The Official Coordination of D19: LIBRE, USA-Canada and Costa Rica, extends its most sincere congratulations and appreciation to our Government of Democratic Socialism, worthily represented by our compañera President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, for the following reasons:

1. For having initiated the Refoundation of the State of Honduras, since she assumed the presidency in January 2022 after having defeated together with the people one of the bloodiest drug dictatorships in the history of Honduras and the continent.

2. For having opened diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.
3. For maintaining a position of NO interference in the internal affairs of any sovereign country.
4. For being part of the integration process of the Latin American and Caribbean region and fighting for unrestricted respect for human rights, sovereignty and self-determination of our country, Honduras.
5. For maintaining a firm and forceful anti-imperialist, anti-colonial, anti-neoliberal, anti-capitalist, and anti-patriarchal stance, especially in the international forums in which she has participated since taking office.



Honduran President Xiomara Castro and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

United Nations, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and most recently, the Ibero-American Summit held in the Dominican Republic.

6. For representing with brilliance and courage the dignity of the revolutionary women and men of Honduras, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the world.

# Thousands march against U.S. war drive People say NO to war with Russia and China

By Struggle-La Lucha  
Washington bureau

Thousands of people demonstrated across the United States on March 18 on the 20th anniversary of the second U.S. war against Iraq. Protesters denounced the U.S./NATO war against Donbass and the Russian Federation.

Biden can find over \$100 billion for a puppet regime in Ukraine but refuses to stop the cuts in SNAP benefits (food stamps) that will spread hunger to millions. Just as depleted uranium munitions poisoned thousands in Iraq, Biden is now planning to ship the deadly uranium shells to Ukraine.

Over 2,500 people came to the White House to tell President Biden

and Congress to stop the war with Russia. They gathered in Lafayette Park, where three years ago Trump ordered a tear gas and pepper spray attack on demonstrators demanding Black Lives Matter!

Demonstrations were also called in other cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Detroit.

Speakers in Lafayette Park included Eugene Puryear of the ANSWER Coalition, Rev. Annie Chambers of the Peoples Power Assembly, Margaret Kimberley of the Black Alliance for Peace and Jill Stein of the Green Party.

"I have déjà vu...remembering how we marched 20 years ago to try to stop the invasion of Iraq," said Margaret Kimberley. Attacking the U.S.

wars and occupations of Haiti, Syria and Yemen, Kimberley declared, "You can't have human rights when you have a gigantic war machine."

Rev. Annie Chambers asked: "How can the U.S. government talk about peace and justice when our own people are starving in the streets? When people are being cut off from food stamps and social assistance? And these are the very people they want to go out and fight for them."

"Only a handful of people have control of this country," said Chambers. "But we have the power to take it back. As a Black Panther, I tell you – we know how to take it back. We're going to stand up and fight back!"

People marched to the pro-war Washington Post, owned by the union-busting billionaire Jeff Bezos.

Marchers then went to the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church for a rally.

People brought hundreds of colorful signs and banners. Balloons were carried that mocked the pro-war freezy against the People's Republic of China. Coffins were held bearing the flags of countries that the U.S. has invaded.

Initiated by the ANSWER coalition, the action was endorsed by over 300 organizations and individuals, including the United National Antiwar Coalition, Black Alliance for Peace, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, The People's Forum, Peoples Power Assembly, Socialist Unity Party and CODEPINK.

The anti-war movement is back! ☮

## WASHINGTON, D.C.



SLL PHOTOS: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA

# Los Angeles protests U.S. proxy war, media censorship

By Struggle-La Lucha  
Los Angeles bureau

Soaring utility rates, rising food costs and other inflationary prices are impoverishing many in Los Angeles. And it's been brewing more and more anger against war spending and escalation in Ukraine.

Some of that anger was expressed March 18 at the CNN building, with about 200 people demanding an end to the U.S. proxy war on Russia and an end to NATO.

The rally was organized by a coalition including the ANSWER coalition and CODEPINK. Many of those who attended feel that CNN is a co-conspirator with the U.S. in escalating this war. Like other corporate media outlets, CNN censors stories that contradict the U.S. narrative.

John Parker of the Socialist Unity Party was present at a table shared by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the Black Alliance For Peace. Parker was one of the voices censored by CNN and other corporate media, which refused to publicize his eyewitness account from Ukraine and the Donbass region that was reported by Struggle-La Lucha, CovertAction Magazine and Black Agenda Report.

Najeeb Jones, who was also staffing the table, spoke at the rally, representing the Black Alliance for Peace. Najeeb is also a member of



SLL PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER

the All-African People's Revolutionary Party.

Many people who found out about the rally from the postings and emails of the Harriet Tubman Center stopped at the table. Others were attracted by the banner for the campaign to "Roll Back Prices – No to Inflation and War."

People signed up for future actions, like tabling at grocery stores and marching against SoCalGas, which has raised utility rates, sometimes by eight times the previous month's rate. They also signed up for activities of the Black Alliance for Peace.

Organizers are hopeful that these contacts will help in building even larger actions against the war, reaching further into the working class of Los Angeles. ☮



PHOTO: ANDY LIEBERMAN



PHOTO: INA MARTINEZ

# Bipartisan slander of China: Lab leak theory dead, U.S. war drive alive and well

By Scott Scheffer

Before the capitalist crisis of bank failures crowded it out of the headlines, news of a congressional hearing to further investigate the origins of the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic was splashed across the front pages and websites of major U.S. media.

Trumpists, conspiracy theorists and fascists in the House of Representatives, who now drive the program of the Republican Party, led the charade. It was a means to revive the slanders against China and launch a broadside attack on their Democratic Party rivals, too.

Meanwhile, the China hawks in the Democratic Party and the Biden administration are content to let them carry the ball. If the lies finally get exposed, the Republican Party will take the heat for the deception. But more important to the China hawks in both parties, the whole affair serves to villainize China and soften anti-war sentiment in preparation for an unthinkable U.S. war.

Even before the House hearings issued their summary report that calls the lab leak lie "most likely," a team of scientists found DNA evidence that shows the virus was spread from bats to other animals and then to humans at the market in Wuhan. Swabs taken from the market soon after the virus began to

spread contain DNA of raccoon dogs and DNA of the virus. (Raccoon dogs are fox-like animals native to eastern Asia.)

If the House "investigation" had been objective and based on science, the summary report would have been delayed and the hearing would have taken this evidence into account. The report should have asserted that the lab leak is pure fantasy.

The congressional hearing was prompted by a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) report reasserting the slanders against the lab in Wuhan and claiming a cover-up by China. In spite of no new evidence being included in the report, major U.S. media ran with it, and the House "investigation" followed.

The role of the DOE as supposed investigators of a global health catastrophe shows the falsity of the claims. The DOE gets huge research funds to develop weapons for the Pentagon. Its staff are not virologists, epidemiologists or scientists even remotely connected to health. They monitor and regulate the supply of energy in the U.S. But a lesser known function is that they help the Pentagon by testing, designing, and upgrading the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

## Bipartisan slander

In January 2021, a United Nations delegation of scientists and health



CARTOON: PEOPLE'S DAILY

experts visited China. Their summary report concluded that a lab leak was unlikely and that there should be continued effort to find the route that the virus took – the search for a second mammal that "piggybacked" the virus from bats to humans. But that didn't stop Biden administration officials from continuing to push the China-bashing that escalated during the Trump era and led to a spike in violent anti-Asian attacks.

In May 2021, President Joe Biden sought more anti-China propaganda by ordering spy agencies to investigate. Six agencies did so. Four concluded the virus was likely to have spread from animals. But the FBI and the DOE leaned in the direction of a lab leak. All six reports were issued at a level of "low confidence."

The results must have been somewhat disappointing to Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, who were by now the new leaders of the growing anti-China demonization. The lab leak theory was kept alive, though, as China hawks latched onto the missing second mammal that spread COVID-19 from bats to humans. The raccoon dog link was still unknown.

Outside the context of the war drive, where logic and science prevail, the lab leak lie has certainly been dealt a death blow by the discovery of the raccoon dog as the intermediate mammal. In fact, the evidence that COVID-19 was spread naturally from bats to raccoon dogs and then to humans is stronger in a sense than the evidence for zoonotic spread of the virus that caused the SARS outbreak in the early 2000s.

In a March 16 Atlantic article, Gigi

Gronvall, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said, "I think the evidence is actually more sturdy for COVID than it is for many others."

"The strength of the data might even, in at least one way, best what's available for SARS-CoV-1: Although scientists have isolated SARS-CoV-1-like viruses from a wet-market-traded mammal host, the palm civet, those samples were taken months after the outbreak began—and the viral variants found weren't exactly identical to the ones in human patients."

"The versions of SARS-CoV-2 tugged out of several Huanan-market samples, meanwhile, are a dead ringer for the ones that sickened humans with COVID early on."

Yet there was no outcry for multiple investigations at the time of the SARS outbreak, even though they hadn't confirmed the intermediate mammal that spread it to humans. The Pentagon was then waging its terrible war against the people of Iraq. The new war drive against China and the uptick in Cold War-style fear-mongering had not yet begun. There was no impetus to deny science and spread antagonistic anti-China slanders.

That has changed. Now the U.S. is patrolling near China's territorial waters, using the greater portion of the Pentagon's naval combat forces. That can only spell war. As they try by proxy to destroy Russia, China is also in U.S. imperialism's crosshairs.

We need a global anti-imperialist uprising. Anti-war forces in the U.S. have the potential and the obligation to stop what would be a catastrophic war before it starts. □

## U.S. PROXY WAR in UKRAINE and DONBASS

Articles and interviews, 2013-2022

MELINDA BUTTERFIELD



## NEW BOOK

By Melinda Butterfield

Look for release date on  
[Struggle-La-Lucha.org](http://Struggle-La-Lucha.org)

This book provides essential background for understanding the U.S./NATO proxy war that threatens to erupt into WW III. It covers the history

and reports the news from Donbass mining region censored by major U.S. news outlets. There's also a review of international solidarity from non-NATO-aligned countries.

Butterfield covers the violent overthrow of the Kiev government in 2014 by a U.S.-backed coalition of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists, and the subsequent war against the people of Donbass. She presents voices of anti-fascists and socialists from Ukraine and Donbass unheard in the U.S., including a first-hand account of the massacre at the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014.

The articles draw from a wide range of sources, including on-the-scenes reports and interviews.

# ¡No al Foro de Madrid en Lima!

Por REDH

La Red de Intelectuales, Artistas y Movimientos Sociales en Defensa de la Humanidad – REDH – al unísono con las iniciativas sociales, políticas y culturales que abogan por una Latinoamérica y un Caribe soberanos, repudia la intrusión de propuestas neocoloniales que proyectan retrotraer la región a la noción de ‘Iberoamérica’, una invención geopolítica del siglo XVI, cuya incursión fue repelida con la independencia de hace dos siglos.

Mientras los pueblos de Latinoamérica y el Caribe muestran su empeño por encender las luces del porvenir y del pensamiento propio para tener futuro, actores políticos como el “Foro de Madrid” pretenden resucitar del pasado un entramado de argumentos decimonónicos, para articular un anachronismo histórico llamado de ‘Iberosfera’, que no solo actualiza las aspiraciones colonialistas que el reino español alimenta desde el Siglo XVI sino que busca posicionar las disonancias racistas, clasistas, sexistas y homofóbicas que le caracterizan.

La REDH alerta sobre la recurrente presencia de estos actores políticos de la extrema derecha en la región (Foro Latinoamericano por la Liber-



Un manifestante sostiene una pancarta que dice “Fuera Dina” durante una protesta exigiendo la renuncia de la presidenta de Perú, Dina Boluarte, en Cuzco, Perú, el 2 de febrero.

lar instancias políticas democráticas como el Foro de Sao Paulo o el Grupo de Puebla.

Reiteramos nuestro llamado a construir un mundo de paz, basado en la soberanía y alternativo al capitalismo que depreda la naturaleza, explota a los seres humanos, meno-

sprecia a los pueblos originarios y niega las diversas culturas, modelo de un nuevo colonialismo que pretende ratificar el Foro de Madrid en Lima.

Por un mundo solidario y alternativo al capitalismo: ¡No al neofascismo! ¡No al Foro de Madrid en Lima!

Red en Defensa de la Humanidad

Patria Grande, marzo 28 de 2023

Fuente: REDH-Cuba.org

## No to the Madrid Forum in Lima!

By REDH

The Network of Intellectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity – REDH -- in unison with the social, political and cultural initiatives that advocate for a sovereign Latin America and Caribbean, repudiates the intrusion of neocolonial proposals that project to take the region back to the notion of “Ibero-America,” a geopolitical intervention of the 16th century, whose incursion was repelled with the independence of two centuries ago.

While the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean show their determination to turn on the lights of the future with their own thinking in order to have a future, political

actors such as the “Madrid Forum” seek to resurrect from the past a framework of nineteenth-century arguments, to articulate a historical anachronism called the “Iberosphere,” which not only updates the colonialist aspirations that the Spanish kingdom has nurtured since the sixteenth century but also seeks to position the racist, classist, sexist and homophobic dissonances that characterize it.

The REDH warns about the recurrent presence of these political actors of the extreme right in the region (Latin American Forum for Freedom, Uruguay, March 2023; Conference of Conservative Political Action, Mexico, Nov. 2022, and others), draws attention to a his-

torical trajectory of genocides, disappearances, massacres, dictatorships and tutelary governments that are the legacy of these groups and, therefore, calls on our peoples to maintain an active vigilance on the multiple actions of interference that these sectors promote.

We express our solidarity with the Peruvian people, whose country under a de facto regime will host the “Madrid Forum” in Lima, convened by a group of aspiring dictators, neo-fascists and ultra-right-wingers, who manipulate the concepts of freedom, democracy and the rule of law, while flaunting their true aspirations: to suffocate sovereign regional integration projects; to demolish progressivism; and to anni-

hilate democratic political bodies such as the Sao Paulo Forum or the Puebla Group.

We reiterate our call to build a world of peace, based on sovereignty and as an alternative to capitalism that depredates nature, exploits human beings, belittles native peoples and denies diverse cultures, a model of a new colonialism that the Madrid Forum in Lima intends to ratify.

For a world of solidarity and alternative to capitalism: No to neofascism! No to the Madrid Forum in Lima!

Network in Defense of Humanity  
Patria Grande, March 28, 2023  
Source: Resumen

## France burns as millions protest to defend pensions

Continued from page 1

People marched across France from Marseille, to Toulouse to Lyon, according to the labor unions. In Paris, there were nearly a million.

The largest demonstrations in years have included thousands of street actions, with over a thousand fires set around Paris and hundreds of arrests.

Tensions ran high in the cities of Bordeaux and Lyon. Besides setting fire to Bordeaux's town hall, protesters targeted banks and threw bottles at police in Lyon.

At Roissy-Charles De Gaulle Airport and across the country, wildcat actions by protesters blocked roads and school access while people gathered with banners reading “No to the pension reform.”

Near Toulouse, in the southwest, plumes of smoke were seen rising from burning piles of debris block-

ing traffic on a highway. Unions also blocked the train tracks at Paris' Gare de Lyon station.

“There may be tougher action ahead, more serious and further-reaching,” warned Fabrice Coudour, the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) labor union’s leading energy sector representative. The CGT is France’s biggest union federation and is historically linked with the French Communist Party (PCF).

The CGT announced that it would force the shutdown of energy giant TotalEnergies’ refinery in Normandy in France’s northwest as of this weekend.

Picket lines at power utility Electricité de France would also be extended, the CGT said. And early on Friday, CGT activists blocked Paris’s busy ring road, the Boulevard Peripherique.

The unions have already put the

responsibility for any future trouble at the government’s doorstep.

French Communist Party National Secretary Fabien Roussel said: “We are going through an exceptional social, economic and democratic crisis. This movement is historic.”

Roussel urged the creation of unity between the left and the labor union organizations “to work hand in hand.”

The class struggle burning in France is closely tied to the U.S.-NATO proxy war launched in Ukraine against Russia.

Before putting through the pen-

sion cuts by diktat, Macron told the council of ministers that the cuts were necessary in response to the mounting capitalist financial crisis, including fears of European bank failures, as well as France’s skyrocketing military budget.

In January, Macron announced a \$445-billion boost to the military budget, including expanded participation in the U.S.-NATO war against Russia. Under Macron, France has become the world’s second-biggest arms exporter after the U.S. The pension cuts will help to increase France’s military production.

**STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA**  
for Socialism / por el Socialismo